

# CROSS

Cross Lutheran Church  
2022 Annual Meeting  
January 22, 2023

# 2022 Annual Reports

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## 2022 Pastoral Report



Friends in Christ,

As a Christian and a pastor, I have learned that it is crucial to participate in regular and deep spiritual practices (beyond weekly worship and daily Bible study) as a way to discern God's movement and call in my life and that of the congregation I serve. Perhaps the most life-giving of my regular spiritual practices is a weekly discernment huddle with a small group of pastors, professors, and lay leaders. It's a very simple process, actually. We begin each hour-long "huddle" by dwelling in a particular Biblical text week before moving on to a time of group and individual discernment.

When I say that we "dwell" in a text, I mean both figuratively and physically, for we return to the same story week after week after week, usually for a year or more. As we do, the story takes up residence with the group and we are able to abide more deeply in its message and meaning. This practice, when paired with the discernment work that follows, has changed my understanding of faith and call and ministry.

These days, my huddle has been dwelling in the story of Jacob wrestling with God at the Jabbok, a story that culminates in Jacob being renamed Israel and returning to his homeland a different person. One who has a refocused sense of purpose and call. One through whom God continues to work to bring about God's preferred future.

As I write this annual report to Cross Lutheran Church, I am pondering the question: "What are we at Cross wrestling with today?"

Since accepting the call to be your pastor 19 months ago, we have seemed to be constantly wrestling: with change and transition; with a fading past and an uncertain future; with long-standing practices and systems which may or may not serve us well into the future. We've fought through (and are still challenged by) the pandemic. We've experienced significant pastoral and staffing transitions. Some things have become simpler, yet others more complex. But through it all, we've continued to wrestle.

And that's a good thing.

One of the defining moments of the Jacob story comes near daybreak, at a time where the emerging light would help Jacob more clearly see whom/what he was facing. God says:

"Let me go, for the day is breaking." But Jacob said, "I will not let you go, unless you bless me." So he said to him, "What is your name?" And he said, "Jacob." Then the man said, "You shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel, for you have striven with God and with humans, and have prevailed."

At this point in time, I don't know if our congregation has reached the dawning of a new day. It seems as if we are, in many ways, still in the dark about the future. Yet we still hold on, trusting that at some point, the dawn will come. And God will help us understand who we are in this new and changing world. I take great comfort in that.

So as we reflect on the past year, I would like to identify a few things that give me hope:

- We have completed the first phase of looking deeply at the systems and structures which help guide how we are church together. The first major step was initiated a year ago when we combined the former Youth and Education boards with our confirmation program into a new Board of Faith Formation. Our proposed updated constitution helps give more definition and form to this board change.
- Our revised constitution also redistributes some important congregational responsibilities (such as staff oversight and congregational life) in a way that creates a more balanced workload and time commitment for our volunteers.
- After a year or so with somewhat disruptive staff transition (pastoral, administrative, and program), I feel we are in a position of growing stability and potential. And although it often takes time for new staff members (myself included) to settle into a comfortable and productive rhythm, I feel we are poised to hit our stride in the coming season. I want to express my thanksgiving for our Cross staff: Carol Hastings, financial secretary; Ruthann Ritchie, director of music; and Katie Tomek, administrative assistant. You are each a blessing and I am honored to work and serve in this congregation alongside you.
- I am delighted with the progress we have made with children and youth ministry, thanks in large part to the energy, imagination, and faithfulness of our Board of Faith Formation and our fantastic parents, guardians, and volunteers. Our one-room Sunday School experiment is progressing nicely; our confirmation students started off the year with an energizing summer trip to Camp Onomia and are meeting regularly with youth of seven other synod congregations for monthly Deep Dive confirmation experiences. As importantly, we are planning on a Deep Dive trip to Memphis in July with our partner congregations. We will explore the civil rights legacy of our country and church in light of our call to love and serve the neighbor. And, we are also hopeful for another Camp Onomia excursion later in the summer — one to which our students are very much looking forward.
- We have established a fairly active post-lockdown approach to Adult Education. Sunday morning adult forums have explored the Narrative Lectionary and Lutheran Liturgy, David Lose's "Making Sense of Scripture" series, Luther's Large Catechism, Cross's popular "My Calling" series, and our relationship with John Glenn Middle School with Principal Jill Miklausich. In the coming year, we hope to bring in more outside presenters, as well as take a deep dive into the Book of Revelation and a few more surprises.
- Our corporate worship life continues to evolve and flourish. We have incorporated another form of communion distribution (continuous) to augment the decades-old practice of communion at the table. I believe it gives us more flexibility to adapt to daily circumstances as well as the general tenor and focus of each time we gather to worship. We have expanded Cross's practice of communal proclamation, from group reading of the Gospel lesson, confession, and certain prayers to also encompass the Words of Institution. It is a practice that I believe stresses even more

the foundational Lutheran understanding of the priesthood of all believers and worship as a congregational response to God's love and forgiveness. My deepest thanks to our Lay Ministers, Ushers, Cantors, Acolytes, Singers and Musicians.. You bring blessing upon blessing to our worship life.

- Our music ministries have blossomed since Ruthann Ritchie joined us in September. The choir has grown to historic levels (or so I'm told), with up to thirteen (or is it more?) people actively involved. We have incorporated Ruthann's gift as a harpist into our regular worship, which adds a level of introspection and contemplation as those blessed strings sing out. I anticipate great things in the months ahead, and look especially towards Lent and the Three Days.
- Last winter we received a \$5000 grant from the Saint Paul Area Synod to enhance our livestream offerings. This investment in new equipment and updated technologies has led to a broader look at our digital outreach efforts. Although there have been many fits and starts, we are nearing a point where we will consistently be able to livestream worship, adult ed, and other offerings to the world around us and around the world. You might not realize it, but we have people from across the USA and Canada, in Europe and Africa, who tune in regularly to worship from Cross. We still have some upgrades and tweaking to do, but I am confident that soon we will be technically on track so that we can begin to think about how we use digital media to expand and enhance our proclamation of the Good News to a world that so desperately needs it. Special thanks go out to Dave Olson and his staff for assistance with expanding our wifi capability, and to Katie Tomek, whose experience and imagination are taking our livestream offerings to new levels.
- Our ministerial partnerships continue to grow. In Spring, we added a third partner congregation, Ebenezer Elim, to our standing relationships with Iglesia Adventista del Septimo Dia and Promesa de Dios. As importantly, we have worked to move our connections to each from primarily transactional (renter/rental) to relational, emphasizing Christ-centered partnerships with each other as a core value we all share. To that end, we have been able to provide each congregation with a designated office space on the second floor, and are exploring ways to share resources (time, talent, and treasure) in a way that trustingly follows the opportunities that are emerging for us together.
- Katie Erickson, Paul Schafer and I are in the final leg of a synodical process called "Liberating Structures." We, together with a number of other congregations in the synod, have been exploring the structures which help us be church together. These structures include our constitution, bylaws, policies, and procedures; how our boards and other leadership groups work with each other; our assumptions about leadership and decision-making; and God's involvement in it all. The point is to liberate ourselves from those practices, systems, and structures which inhibit mission, so that we can more faithfully and trustingly follow God's invitation into the future. It has been hard work and challenging at times, yet we are beginning to see the fruits

of our efforts pay off. I want to thank Katie and Paul for their insight, openness, and commitment to this process.

- You will read elsewhere about all the things happening with our ministry to and with John Glenn Middle School. We are back to monthly community markets, have a wealth of committed and passionate volunteers, have been able to restock the Launching Pad, and are financially doing well. What's more, we are in the midst of planning for the future by exploring ways to invest our mission funds so that we can do more with what we already have, and make the program even more attractive for additional financial backing. I am grateful to everyone involved in John Glenn, especially Sylvia Graham, who keeps us all pointed in the right direction.
- Our relationship with the Shores of Lake Phalen has been a source of blessing. One of our long-time members, Marion Lindstrom, moved there in the Autumn, and I am able to see her weekly, as well as several other members who have joined our church since moving there. What's more, there are signs that others are interested in joining Cross. We routinely have between 20-24 people in worship each Thursday, and we have been able to hold Christmas Eve, Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Sunday worship there, as well. What's more, our relationship with the Shores has led to an opportunity for Ruthann Ritchie to provide some independent musical therapy to the residents.
- Finally, I don't know if a pastor report would be complete without a mention of our congregational finances. One thing that holds my interest is that we have experienced a positive income to expense balance each month since the Summer of 2021, which is testimony to the love you all have for the mission of this congregation. Although dollars never tell the whole story, they can be an indicator of congregational health, and for that I am ever thankful.

Jacob emerged from a long night of wrestling with God with a new outlook and a changed identity. I have a feeling that we will do the same when we emerge fully into the light of a new day. But in the meantime, let us continue to grope and wrestle and strive to follow the path that God is pushing and beckoning us toward. I am honored and humbled to serve you as pastor as together we move into the future.

Pax,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Scott R. S." followed by a horizontal line.

Pastor Scott



## 2022 Annual Report of the Synod

by Bishop Patricia Lull | January 2023

*“Cold December flies away ... when all seemed lost in night, came the sun whose golden light brings unending joy, brings the endless joy of our hope ... Son beloved of heaven.” - ELW 299*

During the Christmas season, we sing dozens of hymns, recounting the story of Jesus’ birth and the coming of Emmanuel to dwell with us. This hymn from the last century is one of my favorites, using the images of nature and the turning seasons to highlight the gifts of hope and joy, which come from God.

This past year was a time of return to many familiar in-person events. Though we started 2022 with the hope that the impact of COVID-19 was fading, we quickly learned that this pandemic would continue to shape our synod’s life all through the year. Despite setbacks and challenges, much common work was undertaken.

By year’s end it was clear that we were not simply returning to pre-pandemic realities of being God’s church but that we were called to turn toward new habits for worship, teaching, community service and outreach with a message of God’s good news for all. If there is a singular lesson to highlight it is that the church is the servant of God’s mission, which will take many forms in an ever-changing society and still be the community where joy and hope are received and shared.

At the Synod Assembly in May 2022 we finally had an in-person launch for the synod’s Planting Hope Campaign. This included the announcement of a formal partnership with Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota to replicate a Families Together therapeutic preschool on the East Side of St. Paul, which will be housed on the first level of Grace Lutheran Church. Our aspiration is to raise \$1 million dollars for this by the 2023 Synod Assembly in May.

At year’s end, \$636,703 was available for distribution to the four goals of the campaign, which in addition to the Families Together preschool include:

- Invite neighbors into life in Christ;
- Renew the congregations of the synod;
- Raise up the next generations of leaders.

Our timeline is to secure the entire \$2.75 million in dollars and intents from congregations, individuals and foundations by the end of 2024. If yours is one of the 49 congregations already invested in the campaign, I thank you. If you are engaging the campaign in 2023, I am grateful for your willingness to join in making hope real for many.

Alongside the Planting Hope Campaign, we anticipate that at the close of the synod's fiscal year on Jan. 31, mission support will be at 97% of the budget for 2022 at \$1,891,500. I am grateful for the ways that congregations connect to others through mission support, including sharing 41.5% of these financial resources with the global work of the ELCA.

As a synod, this year we were also able to reinvest \$113,000 in Gleaning From the Harvest ministry grants back to congregations for work in evangelism, racial justice, worship training and technology, and for projects entitled "We never did that before." Nineteen requests were funded from the 74 applications received.

A church, faithful to serving God's mission, requires well prepared and supported rostered ministers and lay leaders. We currently have 29 persons in the candidacy process including eight who are awaiting their first call. This past year, 22 pastors and deacons were installed in new calls in this synod, six pastors received calls to specialized ministry beyond congregations, and the Synod Council issued synod calls to 11 pastors and deacons for interim ministry. This work with call committees and candidates, along with monthly meetings with all interims, reflects some of the most important work we do together as a synod.

Those ordained in 2022 include Pastor Marty Wyatt, Pastor John E. Swanson, Pastor Amy Johnson, Pastor Ana Becerra, Pastor Tori Remer, Pastor Terri Elton and Pastor Susie Modrow.

Synod work with congregations includes support for the vitality and stewardship of congregations. During 2022, nine congregations participated in the Stewardship for All Seasons program or the Building A Culture of Generosity cohort. Four congregations hosted spiritual gifts retreats, led by synod staff. A total of 21 congregations participated in three Tools for the Church vitality events.

In addition, this past year a new training program for congregational presidents and vice presidents was launched. This Deeper Dive program, hosted monthly on Zoom, has averaged 15 participants. Combined with the annual Tool Kit for Lay Leaders, this new program is designed to better equip lay leaders for the real-time challenges of leading a congregation.

Is your congregation among those noted above? If so, you are reaping the benefit of being part of a connected church. Are there other resources you need? Please know that new programs and formats for training grow out of feedback from you in the 107 congregations and mission developments within this synod.



2022 also brought greater freedom to travel again to our global companions in Tanzania and Guatemala with increased travel planned for the coming year. Even as Zoom has been a godsend for hosting meetings within congregations and the synod, our global companions also connected to synod committees and partner congregations using this technology. It is encouraging to see the mutuality of these partnerships continuing despite pandemic restrictions. I am also grateful for the work of the Bega Kwa Bega staff and volunteers in making visits to so many congregations in our synod and in the Iringa Diocese.

The synod continues to benefit from a multi-year grant from the Lilly Endowment for support of rostered ministers. In 2022, 10 pastors and deacons began work in a new Second Act Cohort for those in years 4 to 10 of ministry, and eight pastors completed the two-year long Kubernesis Seminar with its emphasis on preparing rostered ministers for senior level leadership positions. After pursuing more individualized forms of renewal through spiritual direction, coaching or time away this year, those in the Leaders of Color cohort are preparing for a three-day retreat together with synod staff in February 2023.

We can do this and so much more because of the talented and dedicated staff of the synod. In 2022 we said farewell to Alicia Rodriguez, Michael Gold, Pastor Peter Harrits and Dr. Anna Marsh as they left the staff to take new positions. Replacing them were Kirsten Levorson, director of Bega Kwa Bega; Leslie Ortiz, executive assistant to the bishop and program director for the Lilly Grant; and Rachel Holsten in the new role of front office administrator and event planner. Other staff include Mary Smith, director of communications; David Roinas, synod finance administrator; Astine and Ryan Bose, Bega Kwa Bega coordinators in Iringa; Rolf Lowenberg-DeBoer, assistant to the bishop for lay leadership and equity initiatives; Pastor Justin Grimm, director for evangelical mission and assistant to the bishop for congregational vitality; and Deacon Krista Lind, assistant to the bishop for vocational formation.

As bishop of the synod, I know the difference each colleague makes in our overall efforts to serve you and your congregation. Look around. The signs of God's fruitfulness can be seen in so many ways in this synod. Thank you for being a part of that work, too.

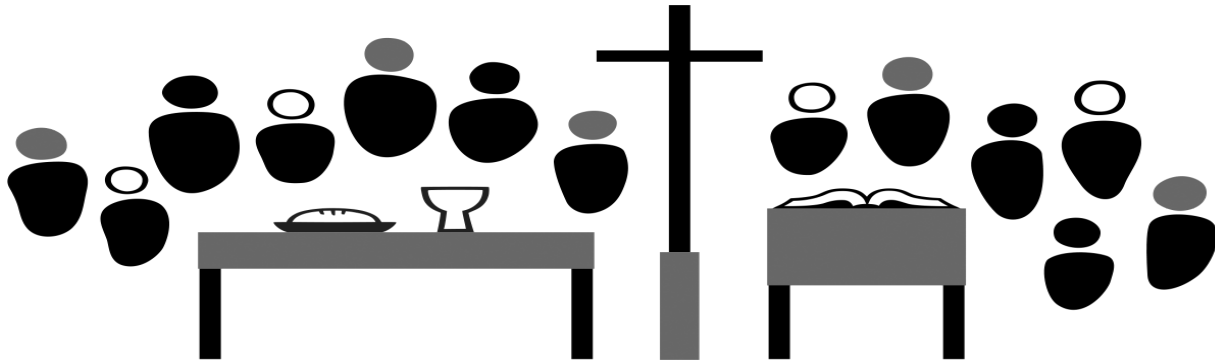
Yours in God's service –



Bishop Patricia Lul



## Board of Lay Ministry Report



This year has been a challenging one, with the need to be flexible, the willingness to change & adapt. We were still worrying about Covid 19. Wearing masks, singing less & even closed down again for several weeks at the end of January & start of February. We were also looking for an organist, as we had been using a substitute organist since Chelesy left in October.

In September of 2021 Carol was able to accept a full-time with benefits employment with the St. Paul Transit System, while also working about 20 hours at church. In February, Carol agreed to accept a 5 hour Financial Secretary job with us & we then found an Administrative Secretary. In March we hired Sarah Malm to take over the secretarial duties. Sarah worked 15 hours a week, several days a week, to fit in with her other part-time job. Then in July, Sarah accepted a full-time job with benefits elsewhere. So, we started the job search again. However, we set out to find a dual applicant, as we wanted not only a secretary, but also someone willing to work Sundays to cover our live recording to Facebook & YouTube. In steps Katie Tomek, with interest, enthusiasm & qualifications for the job. Katie was hired in August for 15 hours a week. It sure makes Sunday mornings a lot easier for the Pastor to not have that job to do that job. THANK YOU KATIE T.

I would just like to say that this job & the office was held & functioned, for many years by 2 people. They worked, seamlessly & flawlessly together, doing so many things we did not even know about. THANK YOU CAROL!! This is not an easy task to fill, but we are grateful that we have very capable staff working on it & making changes along the way. The Cross Currents are now being sent out via e-mail & by mail to those that do not have email. This continues to be a work in progress.

In April, Emily Tryggstad, our Choir Director resigned. Emily had been leading the worship in music, singing the Psalm & finding substitute organists for Sunday worship. So, we combined the job search, looking for one applicant. HELLO RUTHANN RITCHIE!!! We are very grateful to have her musical talents. Ruthann is both an organist & piano player but also plays the harp. Since her arrival our choir has grown to about 14 singers & they sound FABULOUS!!!

During the winter months, we also had a guest staying on the property. Robin was able to get into a treatment program through the Salvation Army at Easter. We are hoping & sending prayers her way that she is getting the help she needs.

After Lent, Pastor Scott requested some volunteers to assist in making some changes in our Alternative Service. THANK YOU, Emily Erickson, Marylee Jackson, & Patty VanderWaal. Thank you so much, we love to sing the different music you have arranged for us.

**The Board of Lay Ministry could not do their job without the help of so many others:**

- The Altar Guild, Diana Border & others: they faithfully care for our Table & Communion Settings.
- The Ushers: Sharon Crist, Ray & Clara Volkers, Jim & Diana Border, Katie & Dan Erickson, Sheree Kieffer & Matthew Wickoren. They greet us as we come to church!
- The Acolytes: Amelia Brynildson, Kirby Doughty Crist, & Henry Mizinski, Who light our way!
- The Cantors: Peter Brown, Katie & Dan Erickson, Duane Gudknecht, Carol Hasting, & Allison Hawley-March Who praise the Lord with their voices
- The Counters: Sharon Crist, Linda Duncan, Duane Gudknecht, Sharon McGinnis, Phyllis Moser, Kay Olson, Kay Stack, Mary Vatne, & Sherry Batterman. Who make sure our offerings are counted & banked.
- Our Janitorial staff: Lou Hopkins & his brother Tony who keep us tidy with all the comings & goings!
- Carol Hastings, our Financial Secretary: she keeps our finances in good order.
- Ruthann Ritchie & Katie Tomek: both new to us & already doing a wonderful job!

**THANK YOU ALL SO MUCH!!! YOU KEEP THE WORSHIP FLOWING & SMOOTH OUR PATHWAY!!!**

Monthly & sometimes bi-monthly meetings, via zoom or in person. Making questionnaires, interviewing, hiring & being flexible in so many ways, have been what the members of the Board of Lay Ministry have been doing this past year. A HUGE THANK YOU GOES TO: Dave Olson, Duane Gudknecht, Dan Erickson & Scott Patterson. Thank you also to Katie Erickson, Paul Schafer & Jami Gudknecht for helping out & being so supportive this year.

Respectfully submitted,

Sherry Batterman

# Community Outreach Report



## JOHN GLENN MIDDLE SCHOOL MINISTRY

This ministry is meant as a support for the staff and students at our neighborhood school. Some Covid 19 restrictions in place. How this program continues to be affected is described in this offering.

### The Community Market:

From January 2022 through May 2022

- Households served: 232
- Total persons: 1,165
- Total kids: 621
- Total adults: 496
- Total seniors: 48
- Total Pounds of food distributed: 12,055 pounds (7,150 of this amount in fresh and frozen)
- Total Cross Lutheran volunteers=10 to 15 each month.
- JG student volunteers = 10 to 20 each month.
- JG teachers & staff 2-4 each month.

At the end of this school, it was decided to not provide a Community Market during summer months due to the continuing construction at the school. Students and families were given food shelf resource numbers and addresses.

2022-2023 School year began on August 31 with the first Community Market held at the Open House. We are now in the expanded school building with several hundred new students.

From August 2022 through November 2022 (December market canceled due to the Christmas week snowstorm)

- Households served: 309
- Total persons: 1,656
- Total kids from JG: 330
- Total other kids: 138
- Total adults (Including seniors): 617
- Total pounds of food distributed: 14,622 Pounds ( 5,140 pounds of this amount from fresh and frozen)

If the December market was held it would have been an additional 4,350 pounds of food. The hope is to duplicate this order for the January Community Market.

- Cross Lutheran volunteers for this period=10 to 15 each month
- John Glenn students=10+ each month
- John Glenn staff or teachers=3-5 each month

**The Jet Launching Pad:** This opened with the new school year in a beautiful glassed-in store adjacent to the cafeteria. It will be opened to students during designated hours with JG staff supervision. Cross Lutheran involvement is to provide one or two identified items for each month.

Donations thus far:

- September-Backpacks
- October-Footies & socks
- November-Sweatpants
- December-Christmas Gift Cards and Kleenex tissue
- January 2023- will be Mittens/gloves and Kleenex tissue

**Holiday Gifts to Families:** Eight families were helped. Two families found homes after a period of homelessness and were provided many items to set up their newly found housing. (See the BB board in the coffee room for items) Four other families received Target Gift Cards for each child as well as Cub Food Cards (See BB for other items provided. ) Two other families helped with gift cards from Cross Lutheran and JG staff and teachers.

**Red Cross Blood Drive:** This was once more hosted on May 5<sup>th</sup>. Thirty-eight registered. Ten were deferred for various reasons. Twenty-eight pints of whole blood was collected. Each pint has the potential to save three lives.

## **OTHER COMMUNITY OUTREACH:**

**Joseph's Coat:** With continued restrictions, no Fall drive was held at Cross Lutheran. Members were encouraged to support this store. If restrictions are lifted, Cross Lutheran will hold a Spring drive.

**Food Shelf:** We provide several grocery bags of food items for the Merrick Food Shelf each year. Items placed in the grocery cart in the narthex are taken to the food shelf if not used for the Community Market. This year during the March Food Drive for Merrick Community Services Food Shelf, we collected \$1,290 plus approximately 250 pounds of food.

The Stewardship/Outreach Board is looking to increase outreach in the coming year. More John Glenn involvement and other avenues are being explored.

Respectfully submitted,

Sylvia Graham



## **Faith Formation Report**

This year, the newly formed Board of Faith Formation has started exploring the possibilities of reaching out in new directions beyond what has been traditionally seen as Christian Education. Our Sunday School Curriculum, "Spill the Beans" provides lots of innovative ways of enhancing the lexicon of our church services in a way that makes the scriptures accessible and relatable to all ages. Our multi age approach to Sunday School has made possible experiences of families learning together. Our use of a team of 4 teachers to teach has lessened the load of any one person and has proven very successful.

Our Confirmands have been meeting and finding common ground with confirmands of neighboring congregations in the Deep Dive activities that bring them a broader sense of being Lutheran in an age of diversity. These opportunities have given them the opportunity to serve others and participate in unique activities.

Adult education experiences have also offered opportunities to dig deeper into the scripture that guides our worship and to share their stories with one another. Pastor Scott continues his ministry at Shores of Lake Phalen.

Our Youth (6<sup>th</sup> -12<sup>th</sup> graders) had the opportunity of attending a summer camp in lieu of the National Youth Convention that had to be canceled. There the themes of taking care of God's creation, taking care of others, and taking care of self, offered them the chance to meet other youth in the beautiful setting of Camp Onomia.

Starting January 22 the Youth Committee will be selling shares right after worship to raise money for their summer trip to Memphis. They will be continuing to sell them every Sunday through February 19.

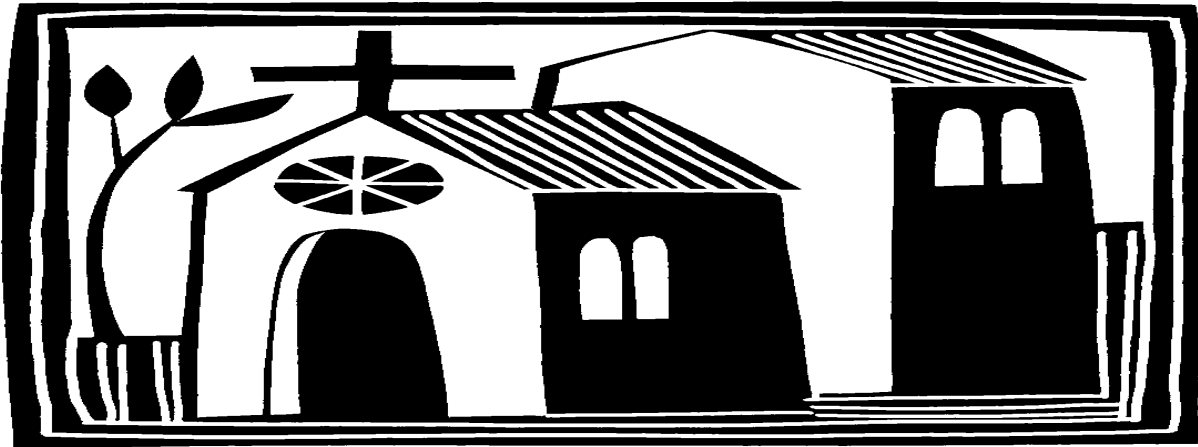
Thank you, as always, for your support.

We look forward to finding more ways to continue this outreach and build community with the churches with whom we share this facility. We are incredibly thankful to the generosity of the people of Cross who make this possible.

Respectfully Submitted,

Diana Swanson

# Properties Report



The Board of Church Properties is given the responsibility for the care, maintenance, and improvement of our building and grounds.

While 2022 saw a return to normalcy with regards to building and property use, there were many changes, both inside and outside as well as large and small. The lighting in the bathrooms was updated so the lights could be placed on a timer to reduce the amount of times lights were left on in the bathrooms. A rogue squirrel must have voted against this change because the update was delayed by a few days thanks to said squirrel blowing a nearby fuse. After a day's delay, the update was completed. The boilers continue to run and perform well. Scott Nelsen volunteered some of his time to pass along his knowledge of the boilers to Scott Patterson, Duane Gudknecht, and Paul Schafer. Since the knowledge transfer session occurred in the spring, Scott taught the group how to shut down the boilers properly for the summer. Scott also provided instructions for turning on the boilers in the fall. The board would like to thank Scott Nelsen for being a good steward of our new boilers and passing along his knowledge and expertise!

An opportunity to add a new partner congregation, Ebenezer Elim, arose in the past year. We welcomed them with open arms and took the opportunity to meet with leaders of each partner congregation on a more regular basis. Out of these conversations with our partner congregation leaders, we all signed a partnership covenant. This partnership covenant strengthened the relationship and communication between Cross and the partner congregations. We held a work day with our partner congregations inside the church to clean out some of the rooms we were no longer using. These rooms were repurposed as office and storage spaces for the partner congregations. The board would like to thank every volunteer that assisted with this work day. While the partnership did result in a stronger relationship with better communication, we still faced some challenges. The addition of the extra congregation meant that there was more trash. A third trash bin was added to account for this. We also have experienced quite a few issues with drains in the kitchen sinks being clogged on multiple different occasions. The board will continue to work through these challenges with the leaders of each of our partner congregations.

The board would also like to extend a very big thank you to Lou Hopkins, our custodian, for all of his hard work cleaning up after each congregation!

The lawn care for 2022 was handled by Mark Bjostad. Mark reached out to us in the spring with an offer to take care of our lawn as a service project. We would like to thank Mark for offering his time and talents in taking care of our lawn this past summer! Tim Frey and Ted Dnnay removed the Ash Tree at the West end of the parking lot. Thank you Tim and Ted! Two work days were held this year, one in May and one on a cold and rainy November day. Both cleanup days were well attended by groups of dedicated member volunteers. Lou and his brother Troy also provided a truck to haul away the garden debris for the November cleanup day. All of the helpful hands made quick work! Thank you to all who helped in any way, shape, and form!

The largest change that occurred this year was the replacement of the roof by BA Roofing. As many of you may remember, the spring of 2022 brought about many different rainstorms that also included hail. With the hail that fell, our roof took considerable damage. Pastor Scott worked closely with the board, BA Roofing, and our insurance agency to file a claim to replace our roof due to the damages. Because Cross wasn't the only building in the area affected by the hail damages, work wasn't able to be started until later in the fall. Finally, in November, BA Roofing was able to come in and replace the roof of the main church building and the portico roof. While BA Roofing was able to complete the main roofing project before the snow started to fly, they were not able to finish the gutter work. The board is still in contact with the roofing company and are working with them to find a time to finish the gutter work in the near future.

Lastly, the board would like to once again extend our thanks to all of the volunteers who provided their time and talents as stewards of our building and grounds. We would also like to extend our thanks to everyone who has contributed to our Capital Improvement Fund.

Respectfully submitted,

The Board of Church Properties





## **Stewardship Report**

The Board of Stewardship thanks all of Cross Lutheran Church's members, leaders, volunteers, friends, and staff for their continued support, faith and encouragement in 2022. This was another strong year for Cross Lutheran. As noted in the 2021 Cross Courier, we have seen more consistent giving throughout the year so that our summer months no longer bring concern about our financial condition. This is due to the faithful giving by our members through the weekly offerings. Many people have their bank automatically send their offerings which also keeps the financial giving consistent throughout the year. We again ended the year with a balanced budget and a surplus. Thank you for the continued faithful giving from everyone.

The leaders of our Boards are very faithful stewards of the resources that are in our care. Each of the Boards was under budget except Church Properties, who had some unexpected but necessary expenses to bring some equipment more up to date. Overall, our expenses were under budget as a whole so this along with increased income from offerings, and a new congregation renting the building resulted in the surplus. It will be necessary to use this surplus and the remainder of the 2021 surplus to present a balanced budget for 2023.

Our outreach ministry to John Glenn Middle School remains strong and the details can be found under that specific report. The Board will be working with the Synod to fully realize the goal of the Fund for Missions. It is our hope to begin investing the monies in the Fund for Missions so that we have even more available for outreach to show that because God loves us, this is our response to that love – to love and serve others so that they may feel God's love through us.

Again thank you for all that you do to support each of us here, and those we touch, through Cross Lutheran Church.

Yours in Christ,  
The Board of Stewardship

# Board of Stewardship

## Summary of Cross Lutheran Church Contributions through 2022 actual and 2023 estimates

	Actual 2019	Actual 2020	Actual 2021	Estimate 2022	Actual 2022	Estimate 2023
Weekly Offerings	\$137,320	\$133,236	\$132,296	\$126,000	\$131,503	\$120,700
53rd Offering	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Plate	\$5,969	\$4,912	\$10,576	\$5,000	\$1,861	\$2,000
<b>Total Weekly Offerings</b>	<b>\$143,289</b>	<b>\$138,148</b>	<b>\$142,872</b>	<b>\$131,000</b>	<b>\$133,364</b>	<b>\$122,700</b>

<b>Weekly Giving</b>	Actual 2019	Actual 2020	Actual 2021	Actual 2022	Estimate 2023
Summary Estimates of Giving					
Number of Giving Units	155	138	120	95	65
Number of People who pledged	51	45	39	42	38
Total Amount of Pledges	\$114,683	\$125,082	\$113,456	\$119,584	\$111,904
Actual Contributions to Pledge	\$113,287	\$121,336	\$114,105	\$121,045	N/A
Total Weekly Giving Pledged/Non pledged	\$137,587	\$133,243	\$132,990	\$132,075	N/A

- Discrepancy due to differences in recording contributions between Finance and Contribution systems.

***The funds below are not part of the Operating Budget. Receipts/Disbursements are handled separately.***

<b>Capital Improvement Fund</b>	Actual 2019	Actual 2020	Actual 2021	Actual 2022	Estimate 2023
Number of Pledges Received	25	22	19	24	20
Total Amount of Pledges	\$7,924	\$7,872	\$6,456	\$10,332	\$8,364
Actual Contributions to Pledge	\$7,080	\$6,943	\$6,107	\$8,341	N/A
Total Capital Improvement Giving	\$9,009	\$8,903	\$16,297	\$13,381	N/A

2021 Capital Improvement includes all funds donated for special boiler appeal.

# Board of Stewardship

## Summary of Cross Lutheran Church Operating Results/Budget

### TOTAL OPERATING INCOME

	Actual 2019	Actual 2020	Actual 2021	Estimate 2022	Actual 2022	Estimate 2023
Weekly Contributions	\$143,289	\$138,184	\$142,872	\$131,000	\$133,374	\$124,500
All Other Income*	\$92,187	\$70,525	\$73,269	\$63,922	\$75,191	\$69,680
Dedicated Funds Released**	\$14,345	\$7,925	\$28,370	\$9,330	\$9,330	\$37,051
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$249,821</b>	<b>\$216,598</b>	<b>\$244,511</b>	<b>\$204,252</b>	<b>\$217,895</b>	<b>\$231,231</b>

### OPERATING EXPENSES BY BOARD

	Actual 2019	Actual 2020	Actual 2021	Estimate 2022	Actual 2022	Estimate 2023
Lay Ministry	\$116,920	\$76,085	\$127,241	\$148,708	\$146,108	\$163,142
Interim Pastoral Services	\$63,111	\$93,578	\$43,234	N/A	N/A	N/A
<b>Lay Ministry Total</b>	<b>\$180,031</b>	<b>\$169,663</b>	<b>\$170,475</b>	<b>\$148,708</b>	<b>\$146,108</b>	<b>\$163,142</b>
Church Properties	\$44,386	\$41,830	\$37,408	\$44,894	\$47,568	\$55,054
Education	\$4,075	\$1,234	\$1,822	\$3,050	N/A	N/A
Youth***	\$4,697	\$2,129	\$758	\$2,600	N/A	N/A
Faith Formation	N/A	N/A	N/A	<b>\$5,650</b>	\$2,749	\$5,675
Stewardship	\$3,446	\$3,603	\$3,891	\$5,000	\$4,510	\$7,360
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$236,635</b>	<b>\$218,459</b>	<b>\$216,141</b>	<b>\$204,252</b>	<b>\$200,935</b>	<b>\$231,231</b>

### INCOME – EXPENSES

<b>OVER (OR SHORT)</b>	\$13,187	(\$1,861)	\$30,157	\$0	\$16,959	\$0
Payroll Protection Loan	N/A	\$25,400	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Fund Balance 2019 – 2022	\$13,187	\$23,539	\$30,157		\$16,959	
Balanced Budget 2022/2023				\$0		\$0

\* Other income consists of Holiday and other offerings such as Lent and Advent; rent from 7<sup>th</sup> Day Adventist, Promesa de Dios, Ebenezer Elim congregations; undesignated gifts and all other miscellaneous income.

\*\* Dedicated Funds Released allows for the transfer of non-budget funds to the operating budget.

\*\*\* The Youth Budget includes the net amount needed from the congregation to support our Youth on their summer trip. A portion of the cost is paid by each Youth that goes on the trip. This income is recorded in other income and used towards the expenses.

### Dedicated Accounts

<b>Savings/Premier/Dedicated Funds</b>	<i>Beginning 1/1/2022</i>	<i>Year to Date Receipts</i>	<i>Year to Date Expenses</i>	<i>Balance 12/31/2022</i>
2020 Undesignated Surplus	\$431.81	\$0.00	\$431.81	\$0.00
2021 Undesignated Surplus	\$30,157.50	\$0.00	\$8,898.19	\$21,259.31
Accumulated Interest Premier Savings	\$332.81	\$243.97	\$0.00	\$576.78
Air Conditioning Memorial	\$7,800.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$7,800.00
Altar Guild Memorial	\$1,751.79	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,751.79
Associated Pastor Continuing Education	\$225.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$225.00
Capital Improvement Fund	\$6,926.19	\$13,461.00	\$3,698.92	\$16,688.27
CD Money for Handbells	\$23.92	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$23.92
Children's Choir	\$118.30	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$118.30
Community Outreach Ministry	\$2,282.28	\$500.00	\$200.00	\$2,582.28
Director of Music Continuing Education	\$70.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$70.00
Education Memorial	\$1,224.04	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,224.04
ELCA World Hunger	\$0.00	\$50.00	\$50.00	\$0.00
Flowers	\$54.91	\$555.00	\$678.96	(\$69.05)
Gifts and Memorials	\$4,114.64	\$1,900.00	\$0.00	\$6,014.64
Miscellaneous Non Budget	\$1,180.00	\$1,800.00	\$2,800.00	\$180.00
Parking Lot Rental	\$2,964.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,964.00
Pastor's Discretionary Fund	\$1,800.00	\$1,375.00	\$1,430.10	\$1,744.90
Portico Entrance Memorial	\$3,500.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$3,500.00
Renter's Security Deposit	\$550.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$550.00
Roof Advance from Insurance	\$0.00	\$66,059.23	\$33,052.29	\$33,006.94
Scholarships	\$0.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$0.00
Sound System Memorial	\$0.00	\$20,000.00	\$0.00	\$20,000.00
Technology Grant	\$0.00	\$5,000.00	\$4,491.86	\$508.14
Undesignated Donations	\$475.60	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$475.60
VBS Offerings	\$0.25	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.25
Worship Music Materials Fund	\$31.95	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$31.95
<b>Total Savings/Premier/Dedicated Funds</b>	<b>\$66,015.00</b>	<b>\$112,319.20</b>	<b>\$57,107.13</b>	<b>\$121,227.07</b>
<b>Investment Fund</b>				
Mission Investment Fund	\$8,425.57	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$8,425.57
Accumulated Interest MI Fund	\$6,811.38	\$69.79	\$0.00	\$6,881.17
<b>Total Investment Funds</b>	<b>\$15,236.95</b>	<b>\$69.79</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$15,306.74</b>
<b>Total Dedicated Accounts</b>	<b>\$81,251.95</b>	<b>\$112,388.99</b>	<b>\$57,107.13</b>	<b>\$136,533.81</b>
<b>Cross Lutheran Church Fund for Missions</b>				
Fund for Missions	\$91,744.02	\$41,587.47	\$20,847.82	\$112,483.67

## **Stewardship: Financial Report**

Cross Lutheran Church

Statement of Financial Position

December 31, 2022

	Year Begin Balance	Balance Last Month	Year to Date Balance	This Month Change	Year to Date Change
<b>Assets</b>					
Cash & Checking Totals:	82,986.22	50,644.07	67,752.66	17,108.59	(15,233.56)
Savings Totals:	127,601.52	234,650.13	233,710.74	(939.39)	106,109.22
Investments Totals:	15,236.95	15,300.26	15,306.74	6.48	69.79
Other Assets Totals:	8,170.87	8,734.45	7,830.86	(903.59)	(340.01)
<b>Total Assets:</b>	<b>233,995.56</b>	<b>309,328.91</b>	<b>324,601.00</b>	<b>15,272.09</b>	<b>90,605.44</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>					
Current Liabilities Totals:	4,371.41	2,718.69	1,995.81	(722.88)	(2,375.60)
<b>Total Liabilities:</b>	<b>4,371.41</b>	<b>2,718.69</b>	<b>1,995.81</b>	<b>(722.88)</b>	<b>(2,375.60)</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>					
Fund Balances Totals:	56,628.18	56,628.18	56,628.18	0.00	0.00
Without Donor Restrictions	135,704.86	169,034.74	167,184.30	(1,850.44)	31,479.44
With Donor Restrictions	37,291.11	80,915.65	81,833.18	917.53	44,542.07
Dedicated Accounts Totals:	172,995.97	249,950.39	249,017.48	(932.91)	76,021.51
Current Period Changes to Net Assets	0.00	31.65	16,959.53	16,927.88	16,959.53
<b>Total Net Assets:</b>	<b>229,624.15</b>	<b>306,610.22</b>	<b>322,605.19</b>	<b>15,994.97</b>	<b>92,981.04</b>
<b>Total Liabilities &amp; Net Assets:</b>	<b>233,995.56</b>	<b>309,328.91</b>	<b>324,601.00</b>	<b>15,272.09</b>	<b>90,605.44</b>



## **United Sisters Report**

The United Sisters of Cross Lutheran Church is dedicated to the advancement of Christian fellowship, Christian growth and Christian service. All female members of Cross Lutheran are members of this organization. There are many ways we serve our members and our community.

Due to the pandemic, we were slow to return to our normal activities. In January, we served a luncheon for our good friend Carol Fontaine. Carol's positive attitude and willingness to bake a dessert for any function will and has been missed.

In April, we served about 60 family and friends of Harry Linroth. Harry was our fun-loving "Dapper Dan", never seen without a fedora hat and could dance a little jig in the church aisle when asked.

In June we served a funeral luncheon for Richard Bingman's family and friends. Richard and Dottie were among the first tutors at John Glenn Jr. High School when we started volunteering for other things than the Community Market. Richard helped with Reading in Tammy's class and in the Wood Shop. Richard designed a mold for a rocking chair that is still used at John Glenn today.

Sunday morning coffee started in the spring, with Marie Anderson making sure we had goodies. The cups, napkins, sugar and creamers, and general supplies, were bought by Mary Vatne. Thank you, Marie and Mary!

We served a beautiful Christmas Brunch after our wonderful Christmas Pageant. We had a beautiful arrange of delicious Christmas cookies and fruit breads to share. We also made up five trays of goodies to bring to our home-bound parishioners.

I would like to thank all the women who continue to set tables and make meat, cheese and dessert trays. Thank you to those who do dishes, wash tablecloths and clean up after funerals and brunches. Without you we couldn't serve so many. THANK YOU ALL!



## **Pastoral Acts of 2022**

### **Funerals**

Nancy Kirchoff	January 24
Marilyn Neuenfeldt	August 17
Richard Bingman	June 11
Carol Fontaine	January 28
Harry Linroth	April 1

### **Baptisms**

Charles Jon Evans	July 24
Georgia Lund	March 20
Harmon Lund	March 20
Marlow Ann Frey	May 1

### **New Members**

Rita and Jim Gaubert	May 8
Merlin Hennig	May 8

### **Transfers**

Scott Nelson	
Bob Preuss and Michele Simon	

# CROSS

## **Cross Lutheran Church,**

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Carol Hastings, financial secretary [carol@crosslutheranchurch.org](mailto:carol@crosslutheranchurch.org)

A congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

